

THE VALLEY PATRIOT

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of weapons &
explosives from
convicted felon in
North Andover



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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Three Medal of Honor Recipients from Phillips Academy

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST


A couple of blocks from downtown Andover, Massachusetts is Phillips Academy, founded in 1778. The academy is an independent, coeducational, secondary school. Three of the school's graduates earned our

Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. Thomas J. Hudner Jr. '43, a Naval aviator who retired as Captain, received the first Medal of Honor of the Korean War. Arthur Murray Preston '31, a US Navy Lieutenant, who served as a World War II Torpedo Boat Commander (PT Boat). Richard H. O'Kane '30, Lieutenant

Commander, commanding officer of the USS Tang (SS-306) during World War II. Commander O'Kane was a Prisoner of War, held by the Japanese after his submarine was lost in combat.

Retiring from the US Navy as a Captain, Richard O'Kane graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1934. Serving in the surface Navy, first on the heavy cruiser USS Chester (CA-27) and later the destroyer USS Pruitt (DD-347). Captain O'Kane qualified for submarines aboard USS Argonaut (SS-136) in 1938. During World War II he completed ten Combat Patrols against the Empire of Japan, five on the USS Wahoo (SS-238) as an executive officer, and five as the commanding officer of the USS Tang (SS-306). In addition to the Medal of Honor, O'Kane received three Navy Crosses, three Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit with "V" device for valor, Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medal with "V" device for valor, the POW Medal, and the Purple Heart. Note: a "V" device stands for Valor, meaning the award was earned in combat, not in a support role.

His submarines earned the Combat Action Ribbon and three US Navy Presidential Unit Citations. The USS Tang holds the record for number of ships sunk and tonnage sunk during the Pacific War. The submarine's crew rescued twenty-two downed airmen in one mission off the island of Truk. In



THOMAS HUDNER

1943, the USS Wahoo (SS-283) headed out on a war patrol to the shallow waters of the farthest reaches of the Yellow Sea. This would be the first time a submarine would patrol the area. Tensions ran high as the crew headed out. To make them feel more at ease, Commander Dudley "Mush" Morton and his Executive officer Richard "Dick" O'Kane broke out a cribbage board and began to play. As submarine lore goes, Morton dealt O'Kane a perfect 29, the highest possible hand one can get in the game. The crew felt like the hand was a lucky omen. That night, the Wahoo sank two Japanese freighters. Three days later, in another game,



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We Stand with Israel and Rebuke “International Law”

It’s time to stop pretending that “International Laws” or “The Geneva Convention” actually mea anything.

They are the embodiment of fake constructs used only by dictators and tyrants to stop their victims from fighting back once they have committed an atrocity, or an act of aggression.

Case and point; our resident communist Luis Yarid’s column this month on page 18 criticizes the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) for not adhering to the Geneva Convention: the recognized rules of war for all to follow.

All, except the terrorists, tyrants, and

dictators at the U.N., refuse to follow them with no consequences.

So, let’s review.

There was a cease-fire already in place on October 7, 2023 when “Palestinians” invaded Israel and went door to door in civilian Jewish neighborhoods, storming homes, raping, kidnapping, torturing, and killing Jewish civilians.

Where does “international law” allow that kind of behavior? Where were the calls for “Palestine” to follow “the Geneva Convention”?

The silence at the U.N. was deafening! Yet, the minute Israel started to

organize their response, and before even one bullet was fired, the Palestinian terrorists and their appeasers in the West were all crying that the Israelis were breaking the rules!

We say, to hell with the rules.

The IDF has every right to kill civilians as terrorists are - by definition - civilians. Their families are also fair game as were the Hitler Youth who were killed in the carpet bombing of Dresden and Berlin in WWII.

The IDF has every right to level all of Gaza - and Beirut if need be - to stop the constant barrage of Jew-hatred

coming at them from all over the Arab-Muslim world, with no intervention from the United Nations or any other “international” body to enforce these fake “international laws”.

We stand with Israel’s right to exist.

We also support their efforts to kill anyone and everyone who stands in their way, and we condemn those meddling appeasers in the west who call for one standard for terrorists, and a different standard for their victims.

We say no cease-fire!

It’s time for Israel to finish the job and eliminate all of Hamas and Hezbollah. ◇

Massachusetts State Senate Launches Groundbreaking Free Community College Program

Senator Pavel Payano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The Massachusetts State Senate celebrated a significant milestone today with the launch of MassEducate, a transformative program that offers universal tuition-free community college to residents across the state.

The official announcement, held at Massachusetts Bay Community College in Framingham, marks a major victory for expanding access to higher education and addressing critical workforce needs in Massachusetts.

Originally proposed in the Senate’s Fiscal Year 2025 budget and now fully implemented, MassEducate ensures that Massachusetts residents without a bachelor’s degree can attend one of the state’s 15 public community colleges at no cost for tuition or fees.

This initiative, aimed at both traditional students and adults returning to education, focuses on high-demand fields like nursing, engineering, and life sciences, helping to address workforce shortages with local talent.

I am very grateful to our Senate President Karen Spilka, Chairman of Ways and Means Michael Rodrigues, Chair of Higher Education Senator Joanne Comerford, and the rest of my Senate colleagues for taking the lead on such an important initiative. This

program reflects a vision of making higher education more accessible, affordable, and equitable for everyone in the Commonwealth. By eliminating tuition barriers, MassEducate is already changing the narrative around college affordability, encouraging individuals to pursue education and training that was previously out of reach for many families. As a result, more residents are now looking at community college as a realistic path to success, not just an aspiration.

MassEducate is already showing signs of success. For example, Massachusetts Bay Community College has seen a 36% jump in enrollment for Fall 2024 compared to two years ago. Statewide, more than 45,000 students are expected to benefit from this program in the current academic year. This follows the success of MassReconnect, a previous initiative targeting adults over 25 and students in nursing programs, which drew over 4,500 participants in its pilot year.

In my district, which includes the gateway cities of Lawrence, Haverhill, and Methuen, MassEducate will be a game-changer. For many students who might not have otherwise pursued higher education, this program provides a clear path to a degree without the burden of overwhelming debt. It not only opens up educational

opportunities but also helps to build a stronger local workforce by preparing residents for critical roles in fields that are essential to our state’s economy.

The Massachusetts Legislature has made an unprecedented investment in public higher education, including \$117.5 million for free community college as part of a broader \$392 million financial aid package in the FY2025 budget. This funding is key to supporting the implementation of MassEducate and ensuring that students across the Commonwealth can take advantage of this life-changing opportunity.

As someone who has long advocated for expanding access to education, I am proud of the work that has gone into making MassEducate a reality.

This initiative not only removes financial barriers for thousands of students but also helps create a more skilled and competitive workforce—one that is built from within our communities.

For those interested in learning more about how to apply for free community college, information is available at Mass.Gov/StudentAid or through local community colleges.

Senator Pavel Payano
Massachusetts State Senator, Member of the Joint Committee on Higher Education sharoline.galva@masenate.gov ◇



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MEVA’s New HQ & Other Tidbits from September

Estela Reyes

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

September came and went in a flash. The beginning of fall is a beautiful time as the leaves change and we welcome new beginnings. This fall is not short of changes coming our way. Election Day, November 5th, is rapidly approaching. I deeply understand the importance of voting as my position of state representative is a reflection of your votes. Voting is your voice and your power in America’s political system. I urge you to check that you are registered to vote at your current address so voting day can go smoothly. Learn how to register, where your local polling location is, and more at mass.gov/topics/voting.

I want to thank the voters who turned out for the primaries. I am honored to have the democratic nomination for State Representative, and equally excited for my fellow democratic electeds. Let’s keep up this momentum. I will see you all out there on Tuesday, November 5th!

More in local politics, Methuen suffered a great loss this month. Mayor Neil Perry passed unexpectedly, leaving the town in shock and sadness. Mayor Perry and I had a great partnership. Our shared vision of bringing in funds to

Methuen for economic development is a goal that has not been lost. I learned a lot about Methuen from the Mayor and will forever hold onto the wisdom he had. Mayor Perry left a lasting legacy that was rightfully honored at his packed memorial service. His leadership will be missed, not forgotten.

In positive news for the Merrimack Valley, MeVa announced the grand opening of a new bus stop. McGovern bus hub is located at 211 Merrimack Street in Lawrence and provides services for the bus, train, and bikes. This central location is hoping to greatly increase the number of riders it serves and ease transportation to towns such as Haverhill and Newburyport. The schedule will take effect at the end of September.

Updates such as this are necessary for the community. However, they are often expensive and take time. At the State House, I use my position to advocate for organizations in my district to receive funding to make those changes. I take great pride when my advocacy and efforts become something of use for the people in the community. MeVa is a great partner of the state. I look forward to the opportunities this new station will create. This is just the beginning of advancements to our transportation



“Eleven Kitchen and Bar” opened a new high end restaurant at 226 Essex Street on October 1st. Lawrence State Reps Estela Reyes and Francisco Paulino (far left and far right) were on hand as well as city councilors and Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena for the ribbon cutting.

system. Lastly to highlight this month is September 15th, the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month. My Dominican heritage is a joy of mine, personally and professionally. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage is important because it honors the successes of Hispanic people while recognizing systemic challenges they have been met with. This month I have had the pleasure of meeting with many Latino-run businesses in the region. Meeting

enthusiastic, hardworking entrepreneurs gives great hope for the advancement of Latino people in healthcare, wellness, education, and more. I am photographed above with Martha Velez, Director of Human Services at the Lawrence Senior Center. She has done incredible work for the Lawrence aging population! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact my office at estela.reyes@mahouse.gov. Thank you for your time. ♦

Ensuring Justice, Fairness for Our Kids’ Futures

Francisco Paulino

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 16TH ESSEX

Dear Residents of Methuen and Lawrence,

As your State Representative, ensuring that justice is accessible, fair, and timely—especially for our children—is one of my highest priorities. Every day, I am reminded of the strength and resilience of the families in our community, many of whom face significant challenges, particularly when navigating our legal system. Today, I want to address an urgent issue impacting the future of our youth: the need to expand the number of Juvenile Court justices in Massachusetts.

The current Juvenile Court system, established in 1906, was designed to meet the needs of a Massachusetts with only 3 million people. Back then, the court system primarily dealt with cases of truancy, minor delinquency, and curfew violations—issues much simpler than what we face today. Fast forward to 2024, and our state’s population has more than doubled to over 7 million people. Our juvenile court system, however, has only added one additional judge in the past two decades, leaving the same 42 justices to handle an increasingly complex and growing caseload.

Today’s juvenile courts are dealing with far more than the simple issues of 1906. Our system must now manage cases involving mental health crises, substance abuse, cybercrime, human trafficking, and complex family law issues such as custody disputes and child protection cases. These cases are not just about enforcing laws—they involve young people and families who are often dealing with trauma and hardship. It’s crucial that our system can respond



swiftly and compassionately.

In Methuen and Lawrence, where we have some of the largest youth populations in the state, the strain on the system is even greater. Methuen High School serves over 1,900 students, while Lawrence High School has more than 3,200 students. I have seen firsthand how delays in the court system can deeply impact our families. They often face extended delays before their cases are heard, leading to prolonged uncertainty, stress, and, in many cases, significant hardship. I’ve spoken with parents and advocates who are frustrated by these delays, as they watch their children’s lives put on hold.

Delays in justice aren’t just an inconvenience—they can have a lasting negative impact on families. In juvenile cases, time is critical. Whether a child is seeking rehabilitation, a family is waiting for a custody resolution, or a youth is in need of mental health intervention, every day of delay increases the emotional, financial, and social toll. Justice delayed is justice denied, and nowhere is that more evident than in our current juvenile court system.

That is why I plan to file an

amendment in the upcoming legislative session to increase the number of Juvenile Court justices from 42 to 80. This expansion is not just a matter of numbers, but a crucial investment in the future of our children. Expanding our judicial resources will help ensure that families in Methuen, Lawrence, and across Massachusetts receive the timely justice they deserve.

This expansion will also address the disproportionate impact these court delays have on vulnerable and marginalized communities. Delayed justice exacerbates inequities, particularly for families with fewer resources to navigate the complexities of prolonged court proceedings. By increasing the number of justices, we can reduce these delays, promote fairness, and create a more equitable system for all.

But this isn’t just about addressing an immediate problem—it’s about building a brighter future. By investing in our courts today, we are ensuring that our children and families are supported when they need it most. I truly believe that when we provide justice swiftly and fairly, we give our children the best chance to grow, heal, and thrive. And when our youth thrive, our community thrives.

Furthermore, while there is an upfront cost associated with adding new justices, this investment will save money in the long run. Prolonged court cases lead to increased costs in detention, extended use of state-funded social services, and higher legal fees. By expanding the capacity of our Juvenile Courts, we can resolve cases more efficiently, reduce these long-term costs, and allow our youth to move forward with their lives sooner.

Our children deserve a judicial system that serves them well. With your support, we can create a system that meets the needs of our growing and evolving community. Together, we can ensure that the children of Methuen, Lawrence, and all of Massachusetts receive the justice they deserve, when they need it most.

In service,
Francisco E. Paulino, State Representative
16th Essex District
Francisco.Paulino@mahouse.gov ♦

Disturbing Audit of Executive Office of Public Safety

Hello Valley Patriot readers,

Sexual assault is a crime that is accompanied by physical pain, emotional distress, and a level of trauma that can last a lifetime. Feelings tied to such experiences can be so emotionally painful and complex that many victims choose to avoid reporting the crimes to authorities. It's imperative that the Commonwealth create an environment that reduces such crimes – and that when these crimes do occur, authorities at every level approach it with a level of attention and care that treats survivors with respect, and their cases with urgency.

With these interests in mind, our office recently released a report assessing the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). EOPSS has broad responsibilities that include the administration of independent programs, boards, and other agencies that address

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crime prevention, homeland security, and overall safety of residents and visitors in the Commonwealth.

Our recent report specifically delved into the performance of EOPSS's Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory (MSPCL), an entity tasked with providing forensic services for the criminal justice system. MSPCL responds to crime scenes, performs laboratory testing, and provides expert testimony. This includes maintaining, assessing, and testing sexual assault evidence kits (SAEKs).

Our audit revealed a number of disturbing gaps in the MSPCL processes and procedures – gaps made all the more alarming given the sensitive nature of

their responsibilities.

Specifically, our audit revealed instances where Provider Sexual Crime Report data included personally identifiable information (PII), creating a threat to privacy and confidentiality of those who reported sexual assault. In some instances, the information included home addresses, and even their full name. We also found that information of direct relatives of survivors was listed, creating a risk for families.

Additionally, we found that EOPSS did not ensure that MSPCL met the 90-day timeframe for the review of previously untested evidence collection kits (more casually referred to as rape kits). MSPCL was found to not have shipped sexual assault evidence collection kits in a timely manner. Finally, EOPSS – which is responsible for maintaining information on the location of these kits - was found to have incorrect data on where certain kits were even located.

The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) estimates that 2 out of every 3 sexual assaults go unreported. A tremendous amount of bravery is required for survivors to come forward to report their experience, underscoring the responsibility our public safety officials have in ensuring we respond with the utmost care, respect, and urgency.

EOPSS and MSPCL are important to the process of pursuing justice for a sexual assault survivor and their family. Survivors' personally identifiable



information must be protected, and sexual assault evidence collection kits need to be processed in a timely manner.

Our audit certainly identified gaps, but it also provided recommended solutions. These include encouraging EOPSS to develop policies and procedures for monitoring and maintaining up-to-date information on the location of evidence collection kits, and appropriate training for employees and contractors regarding such procedures.

The National Sexual Assault Hotline (1-800-656-4673) is available for survivors of sexual assault in need of guidance and support.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to provide feedback to our team, please feel free to contact my office via email at auditor@massauditor.gov or by phone at (617) 727-2075. If you're ever in the State House, please feel free to visit our team in room 230!

Yours in service,
Diana ◇



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Many Benefits To Augmenting Communities

Philippe Thibault
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT CONTRIBUTOR

As Town Meeting approaches, November 18th, there are more discussions about legislation passed in 2020 known as MBTA Communities. Passed in an economic development bill, some people have said hidden within, this law requires any community serviced by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority to provide zoning for multi-family housing. The criteria being this housing needs to be as of right. The density of the housing and quantity of dwelling units created are dependent on the proximity of the community to the namesake law. For Dracut, this requirement equates to ten percent of the existing housing stock in town, one thousand two hundred thirty-three dwellings. Zoning would also need to permit a density of fifteen units per acre with a minimum of fifty acres so designated. Dracut is looking to provide two zones for a total of eighty-four acres.

This law may appear to be onerous. Many opponents claim an overreach of the legislature to home rule and the state not having a standing on setting zoning requirements within a community. The state has many mandates that override local zoning

regulations. The Dover Amendment comes to mind. This provision allows educational facilities and other uses specific to the amendment in any zone including residential and industrial alike. There are reasonable restrictions that these exempted uses must abide by such as dimensional setbacks, but not necessarily the size of the structures. The MBTA Communities law takes a similar stance for the greater good of creating much needed housing not just in the local municipality but in the region.

The claim of an “unfunded mandate” is decried by the opponents of this law also. There is no monetary cost to the communities that pass this zoning. The claim of additional costs for a town in terms of police, fire, town services and education will spell financial doom do not account for the additional revenues that will be reaped by the town. Proposition 2 ½ set the tax levies back in the 1980s with a permitted increase to the levy ceiling at an additional two and a half percent annually plus new growth. The levy ceiling is the maximum tax levy a community may institute each year. New growth seldom gets mentioned when taxes are discussed but can have an enormous impact of the finances. The best growth would be in both the residential sector as well as the

commercial base. Significant growth in one sector would hopefully bring significant or at least moderate growth in the other.

For Dracut, this could be a boon. Dracut's taxable base is over ninety percent residential. At today's rates and dollars an increase of twelve hundred dwelling units could equate to approximately five million dollars in new taxes from residential growth alone. The increase in commercial tax receipts could be extrapolated to similar amounts. Undoubtedly MBTA Communities will influence the percentages. While the full implementation of development of twelve hundred dwelling units would take approximately a decade, the ramifications on the commercial side may be realized sooner. Simply put, where there are more people, those people will need additional services. Dracut could see a multiplication of services provided with new industry sectors being introduced.

MBTA Communities will not change the face or character of the Town of Dracut. While Dracut is fiercely proud of their agricultural heritage and the dozen or so active farms still within the community, Dracut is by no means an agrarian hamlet anymore. The industrial revolution came early to



Dracut. As early as 1840 a thread mill built by John and Peter Lawson on Beaver Brook in the Collinsville section of Dracut is reputed to have spun the first spools of thread in the area. Michael Collins later purchased the mill, and this section of town became his namesake as the area thrived and industrialized. The Merrimac Woolen Mills were constructed in the 1860s and the Navy Yard section of Dracut was urbanized. So much so, that the City of Lowell tried but failed to annex this

Remembering Mayor Perry

Ryan Hamilton

STATE REP., HAVERHILL/METHUEN

As many people know, the City of Methuen lost our community leader last week. Mayor Neil Perry passed away after unfortunate health complications, leaving a mourning city and an everlasting legacy.

Said best in his inaugural remarks, “I want you to look back and say this was a moment that things changed. My integrity is everything to me. I would encourage you to challenge my ideas to improve them, but I will never do anything to make you question my integrity. I want us to think big, and I want us to be aggressive. Building a community isn’t just about what our government can do. It’s really about what we all can do..” And that’s precisely who Mayor Perry proved he was over his four years as head of the city.

The Mayor led us through the COVID-19 pandemic. He secured COVID-19 shots for the community and organized a city-run clinic to administer them. He returned tax money to our small businesses to ensure they would stay afloat during these troubling times. The Mayor and others recently led the charge to purchase the Searles Property. By purchasing it, the city will ensure that the historic buildings are protected and that we can have an open process on what the future holds for the property.

I will never forget my time working for Mayor Perry—specifically, our Fridays



at the COVID-19 Clinic at the Loop. The Mayor, forever a Raytheon employee, was supposed to greet people at the door to welcome them. The Mayor thought this was not a proper use of his talents and instead decided it best to sit behind his computer to help check people out. That left the greeting to me, and every Friday, as I greeted those coming to get their flu shot, the Mayor would say to anyone who would listen. “Ryan, look at you talking and glad handling all these people. You are a true politician.” to which I would always smile and provide a snarky rebuttal.

It’s safe to say that Mayor Perry was the right man for the job. He brought stability back to Methuen when it needed it the most. Although his physical abilities started to leave him, his love for Methuen never did.

I was with the Mayor at a ribbon cutting the day before he passed.. We discussed several projects that we were working on together. Then, before he left to go back to the office for more meetings, he joked with me, as he always did, to never forget to “bring home the money to Methuen.” That was the last time I spoke with my friend and former

boss. That is why I wanted to thank him this month for everything he has done for me and the City of Methuen.

Mayor Perry is in my thoughts often, and I am grateful for the time I got to know him. I thank him for his guidance, integrity, and what he valued most; I thank him for his dedication to the City of Methuen. The progress we have achieved over the last four years would not have been possible without the supportive leader that we have had in our corner.

He will be remembered, and he will be greatly missed. ♦

Daniel Medina of North Andover Charged with Over 30 Firearms and Explosives as a Convicted Felon

A North Andover man has been charged for allegedly possessing over 30 firearms and explosives as a convicted felon.

Daniel Medina, 64, was charged by criminal complaint with unlawful possession of a machine gun, unlawful possession of explosives, and as a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition. Medina is currently in state custody on related charges and will appear in federal court in Boston at a later date.

According to the charging documents, on July 1, 2024, law enforcement was dispatched to the area of Medina’s North Andover residence after receiving a report of an explosion. Upon arrival, damage to two vehicles was observed as well as a piece of mail addressed to Medina beneath the damaged rear passenger door of one vehicle.

It is alleged that the damages to the vehicles and materials left behind were consistent with common items used in manufacturing homemade explosive devices, specifically ball bearings or shrapnel. It is further alleged that witnesses observed Medina running from the damaged vehicles toward his residence following the explosion.

According to the charging documents, during a search of Medina’s residence the following day, law enforcement

located and seized the following items:

- * 32 firearms, including 12 rifles, 15 pistols, three shotguns and two antique firearms;
- * 9,000 rounds of various calibers of modern ammunition manufactured outside of Massachusetts;
- * 75 magazines for various caliber firearms;
- * Various firearm parts;
- * A Glock switch device;
- * Books pertaining to the building of firearms and manufacturing of explosives and drugs;
- * Shrapnel accessories such as BB’s and ball bearings;
- * Multiple firework containers; and
- * Various containers of powders produced and shipped in interstate commerce.

It is alleged that the containers of powder were found to contain potassium chlorate and aluminum powder – the same flash powder found in the suspected explosive material used for the prior day’s explosion.

Medina is prohibited from possessing firearms, ammunition and explosive material due to a 2002 state conviction of assault and battery in Lawrence District Court, for which he was sentenced to two and a half years in jail.

The charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition provides for a sentence of up to 15 years



in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of illegal possession of a machine gun provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000.

The charge of illegal possession of an explosive material provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and James M. Ferguson,

Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the North Andover Police Department, Massachusetts State Police and the Essex County District Attorney’s Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Luke A. Goldworm of the Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. ♦

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Remembering Former Selectman Richardson in Dracut

By Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Some people are extra special, and they warrant special remembrance. Former Dracut Selectman Sheila Richardson is one of those people. The world lost a remarkable woman when Sheila passed away in August at 91 years young. Her life deserves to be revered, remembered, and recounted.

Sheila leaves behind a rich legacy woven into the fabric of her family, our community, and the hearts of those she touched. She meant so much to so many. A loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Sheila's family was the cornerstone of her life. Her daughters Cathy and Debbie were her pride and joy, and she was a devoted mother to her son William who predeceased her.

Each of her nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren experienced firsthand the warmth and wisdom that flowed from Sheila, whose heart was as welcoming as her garden, filled with vibrant flowers and the sweet songs of visiting birds.

Known for her generous and compassionate nature, Sheila was a steadfast presence in her grandchildren's lives. From sharing stories of her life to guiding them through challenges, Sheila exemplified unconditional love. Her influence fostered a sense of belonging and purpose in her family, creating a legacy that will endure for generations. Each gathering became an opportunity

EYE ON DRACUT

for her to impart life lessons, whether through discussion, shared laughter, dance, or quiet moments of reflection. The love she cultivated continues to flourish in her family, a testament to her enduring impact. Sheila was so proud of all her grandchildren, and she would have been so proud of them at her funeral when they eulogized and remembered her with such love, gratitude, and respect.

Sheila was a life-long learner. After having her family, she earned an associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree. Sheila was passionate about teaching and used her education to help others.

Her teaching career began at the Adult Learning Center in the 1970s, where she taught English as a second language. Even in her later years, Sheila continued to substitute teach in Dracut and Hudson, NH, bringing her passion and experience into classrooms well into her 80s. Her commitment to education underscored her belief in the transformative power of knowledge—a belief she shared with everyone she encountered.

Speaking of which, Sheila was a tireless advocate for her candidates, causes, community, and country. A lifelong Republican, she wasn't just a voter; she was an extremely active participant in the democratic process. Sheila's political engagement saw her

serve as a former Selectman in Dracut and as a Massachusetts Republican State Committeewoman, among other roles. Her appointment by Governor William Weld to the Dracut Housing Authority and her leadership as founder of the Dracut Republican Town Committee exemplified her dedication to service. Sheila's passion for politics was rooted in her strong patriotic spirit, as she worked tirelessly to support candidates and initiatives that aligned with her values. She believed in the power of civic duty and inspired those around her to take action and engage in meaningful discourse.

Sheila volunteered for SEARCH in the 1970s, helping formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society. This work reflected her compassionate nature and belief in second chances. Sheila was a former member of the Eliot Presbyterian Church in Lowell, Christ Church United in Dracut where she sang in the choir and the Litchfield Community Church in NH.

As we remember Sheila, we celebrate a life characterized by love, service, and unwavering dedication. Whether through her nurturing presence as a mother and grandmother, her impactful work as a teacher, or her relentless support for her community and country, Sheila's influence was profound. Her legacy is



not only in the lives she touched but also in the values she instilled in her family and community. In her garden of life, Sheila sowed seeds of love, knowledge, and service that will continue to bloom in the hearts of those who were fortunate to know her.

As we mourn her passing, may we also cherish the indelible mark Sheila left—a reminder that one person in a small town can indeed make a world of difference.

-- Brian Genest
is grateful for the 30-year friendship he had with Sheila Richardson. ♦





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Windham / Family Office Review

Family Office Review

Perhaps the most dominant theme in the personal finance space this month is concern over the impact that the upcoming election and Federal Reserve actions will have on investments, retirement plans, and interest rates. Specifically, the question we have been hearing the most is what actions should be considered in light of interest rates peaking and having now begun a decline with the first rate cut in years.

Lower rates are welcomed by businesses and families looking to borrow money to grow their business or finance purchases including homes and automobiles. But to those with large savings who just recently have begun to enjoy earning higher interest, the series of rate cuts we're heading into is a double-edged sword.

Some people are hurrying to purchase longer-term bank CDs before rates dip back to 4% or below. Others are rebalancing portfolios to help ensure they'll be prepared for liquidity needs in retirement.

But the first question that should be explored is how much savings a person or family should have in the first place to be responsible. There are a number of schools of thought on this that we'll expand upon in this month's column.

And then, maximizing returns can be explored. Some may simply choose physical cash. Others, a blend of cash, credit, and other low risk avenues such as bank savings accounts, money market funds, CD laddering, and more sophisticated strategies given their unique needs.

Series: Strategic Savings

There are many different strategies for savings, each with something to offer for people at different stages of life.

For example, a couple approaching retirement will typically pay off their home mortgage and save significantly

more money because they want to mitigate risk as they face increasing life expectancies and fixed income in retirement. They'll also typically balance their investments more conservatively.

Whereas a younger family with increasing household earnings potential will typically leverage debt in the form of a home mortgage. They'll also typically be balancing student loans, credit cards, and vehicle loans against their active employment income. All of this comes together frankly to increase the need for a savings strategy.

The popular personal finance guru Dave Ramsey has plenty to say on the topic of savings and debt. For those unfamiliar, I'll make it real simple. He loves savings and hates debt in all forms. He offers an affordable Financial Peace program, which has a series of "Baby Steps." Baby step #1 is to save \$1,000 as a starter emergency fund. Baby step #2 is to pay off debt. Baby step #3 is to save 3-6 months of expenses in a fully funded emergency fund. And so on.

Everyone will agree they need some level of savings for their security and that of their family. Emergency or not,

when you need money quickly and you don't have it readily available, it ends up becoming way more expensive than it needs to be. And while I have absolutely nothing against the Financial Peace program, an area that might hold

some folks back from taking savings strategy seriously includes terminology like "Baby Steps," "Emergency Funds," and others throughout the industry. And this is why I've chosen the rather dry, but serious, terminology of Strategic Savings.

Most always left out of the discussion of savings, is that at many levels we're really talking about liquidity management. And debt should be a part of that discussion, though at first it might seem to be the antithesis of savings. A main reason to include debt



in the strategy is that often times the liquidity need is short-term and debt utilization, at least in part, for 30-45 days can often have no cost. Also, if the liquidity need is medium-term, for instance 45-120 days, the cost can often be negligible. This is discussed of course in the context of strong financial discipline.

5 levels of Strategic Savings

Level #1: \$3,000
\$500 physical cash + \$500 bank savings + \$2,000 credit

With some amount of discipline, this level should be achievable for most everyone. For those who have to work towards it, it should be recognized as an achievement. For those who are already at or well beyond this level, this is a good opportunity to set up separate high yield savings accounts, and work on extolling the same discipline for both spouses and children as well if applicable. If credit is used, it must be paid off each month in full, or as immediately as possible using banks savings and additional prioritized contributions.

Level #2: \$10,000
\$1,000 physical cash + \$2,000 bank savings + \$7,000 credit

This level is achievable for most everyone over time. Some will need to work towards this, and it should take a priority to discretionary consumption and even investments. For those who are already at or well beyond this level, this is a good opportunity to bolster the bank savings accounts and begin diversifying across other low risk and liquid options.

Level #3: \$20,000
\$2,000 physical cash + \$4,000 bank savings + \$14,000 credit

This level should be equal to about 3 months household expenses for most. Achieving this level should still take a priority to discretionary consumption and even investments.

Level #4: \$40,000
\$3,000 physical cash + \$12,000 bank savings + \$25,000 credit

This level should be equal to about 6 months household expenses for most.

Achieving this level should still take a priority to discretionary consumption and even investments.

Level #5: \$80,000
\$4,000 physical cash + \$36,000 bank savings + \$40,000 credit

This level should be equal to about 1 year household expenses for most. At this level, discretionary consumption and investments should be in balance. You're prepared not only in the event of a job loss, but also empowered to explore more fulfilling employment or starting a business. You can focus on ensuring that most all of your money is making the highest yield possible and diversify away from absolute immediate liquidity needs. Credit at this level will become more sophisticated and likely include not only a few zero balance credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, Amex), but also a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC).

I appreciate everyone who writes in with your thoughts and look forward to including you in the conversation.

Joel Desilets has expertise in investing, real estate, private equity, tax-advantaged strategies surrounding business transitions, 1031 exchanges and long-term capital preservation. Desilets is a former State Representative and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for Windham. Through the Desilets Philanthropies Fund, he is committed to supporting charitable causes locally including medical relief, veteran support, animal welfare and community enrichment.

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Thanks to Governor Maura Healey, our partners at HUD-Federal Housing and Urban Development, Lawrence Community Works, Winn Companies, Groundwork Lawrence, Lawrence General Hospital, State, and Local Delegation, Senator Warren, Senator Pavel Payano and Congresswoman Trahan.

The One Wish Project ~ Celebrating Birthdays, Delivering Hope to Thousands of Homeless Kids

~ HEART OF THE VALLEY ~

Katie Cook
VALLEY PATRIOT CHARITY COLUMNIST

As a young girl Hannah Finn had a vision of giving back to her community. It was 2017 and she was a 14-year-old student at Andover High School. Her mother encouraged her to look at her own passions as fuel for service. She loved baking, so it just seemed a natural fit for her to bring some birthday love to a child in need.

They reached out to the Lazarus House in Lawrence and inquired about possibly baking a birthday cake for a child at their shelter. Perfect timing, because there was a young boy, Adrian, living there who was turning 7 in just 2 short days! Hannah gathered all her babysitting money she had saved up and headed to the store! She chose a Wilton cake recipe for her first big challenge, and it was a total success! She instantly wanted to do more, and her next assignment came just three weeks later. Over the next 3 months the Lazarus house would call her whenever they had an upcoming birthday, and she was beyond excited to bake and shop!

She soon received a call from another shelter in Lawrence asking her if she would be willing to bring the joys of a birthday celebration to about 75 children a year! Knowing this task was more than her babysitting money could afford she reached out to her friends & family for support.

She had an overwhelming number of people who wanted to contribute, so she needed to step up her game to find a way to let everyone help! They started to get more organized. They created a survey that is still sent to each of the kids, to be able to customize their celebrations. The children can pick from cake, cookies or cupcakes, they can pick their favorite flavor, what their interests are and what they might want to receive as a gift.

The need continued to grow. Soon

(DCF) The Department of Children and Family reached out with the hopes of servicing over 100 children just in the Lawrence area. As the need grew, the support grew. Hannah was starting to get some real recognition with the press, doing different interviews to encourage people to contribute in whatever way they could. Magic 106.7 invited her to be on their podcast for exceptional women, forging a forever friendship with their Co-hosts! She partnered with Family Services of Lawrence to help her with some of the logistics of working with children in foster care.

They were able to create an Advisory Board that helped to develop a growth plan that now includes servicing over 1,200 children in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore area currently in shelter or foster care. They have been able to rent a small space to store birthday gifts for the children. In 2020 Hannah headed off to college, so her mom took over full time to make sure these birthday celebrations continued.

By 2020 they were operating as a well-oiled machine! They had a strong Advisory Board, a supply of birthday gifts, and 285 registered volunteers to bake and deliver Birthday Wishes! But they are continuously looking for support from our community. They have many ways to help besides the obvious cash donations.

The first way is to volunteer to be a bringer of birthday joy!

Sponsoring a birthday includes making or buying a cake, getting a birthday gift together, this can be picked up from the One Wish office or you can purchase your own for between \$150-\$200 per kid, and taking the birthday festivities to the child on their actual birthday. To sponsor a birthday, you will work directly with Family Services to become an approved Cori checked sponsor. Some people sign up and participate once, others get on the list and participate as often as possible!



Both types of volunteers are encouraged to sign up. If you are interested, you can fill out an application on their website. Once you're on the list you will get a monthly e-mail about the potential of signing up.

Two to five weeks in advance you will get an e-mail with all the information that you will need to help provide a successful birthday.

A super easy way to contribute is to purchase a birthday gift from their Amazon wish list. A link directly to it can be found on their website or by searching on Amazon. The gifts will ship directly to One Wish headquarters and the volunteers will festively wrap and deliver them!

Another really easy way to support One Wish would be to give them a like and a share on social media!

Sustainability and growth are two of their critical goals. They are looking

for corporate sponsors locally to help continue their mission. Corporate sponsorship can include being a sponsor for their annual gala, a birthday bag sponsor, or a child sponsor. For more information on corporate sponsorships, reach out to Executive Director Caludia Mintz (Hannah's mom)!

Their annual gala is another great way to get involved! Every June they host their "Light A Candle Gala!" in Andover, MA. This unique evening includes a cake baking contest of course, finished off with a cake lighting ceremony that will illuminate the room.

They are always looking for donations for raffle prizes, people to come join the fun by purchasing a ticket and corporate sponsors. Check back on their website next spring for up-to-date details.

For any additional information reach directly to the One Wish team.
Claudia@onewishproject.us ♦

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Fostering Shelter Pets Saves Lives

KANE

VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT/COLUMNIST

Have you Ever Considered Fostering a Homeless Pet?

Kane had important work this month. Baby Beluga an 11-week-old Catahoula Leaped Dog came to stay at his house for two weeks. His litter mates all went home to their adoptive family and little Beluga was alone and sick. Beluga could not walk because he grew too fast, so he needed to regain his health before returning to the animal shelter at the Lowell Humane Society.

Kane was up to the initial task. He decided to guard the puppy. He let the humans know when he moved around, showed him how to go outside and where to sleep. Kane even allowed some minimal cuddling. Kane thought wow fostering is pretty easy. Then overnight Beluga was not just walking, he was running. Kane reports it was like living with a flying squirrel. He barked, play bit Kane and his sister Ruby on the bum and tail, and he had endless energy. Baby Beluga was noisy, he used all Kane’s toys and got lots of attention from Kane’s humans. So fostering means sharing time and being patient with little puppies who have come into hard times. You see it’s worth it because Fostering Saves lives! And Beluga was just being a normal friendly puppy.

So, Kane Asks Why Foster?

Well, look at how happy Kane’s friend Marshall is! He is in foster care with Kane’s human friends Brian and Isabell. In the shelter at the Lowell Humane Society, he was very large



for small spaces and found himself anxious and a good match for home care. Marshall is very lucky to live like a king in foster care until his new adoptive family finds him. In fact, Marshall is still available for adoption at the Lowell Humane Society.

Kane decided to do some research on foster care. Kane reports well it definitely makes more room in the shelter for the recent overcrowding situation in Massachusetts and throughout the country. But on a more personal note, many animals are too overwhelmed in the shelter from the noise so they shut down or become dog reactive. Many strays coming into the shelter have not been properly

socialized. By living in a home with a family they learn to be housebroken, learn good manners, and in many situations learn to accept love after being let down by humans. All these skills help them be more adoptable.

Kane explained that dogs with good manners and well socialized pups have a better chance of being adopted more quickly if they interact well with others.. Foster care allows the pups to learn these skills. A Shelter can be very scary for senior dogs and dogs that are in general very shy. Foster care allows for more normalcy, and an opportunity to learn house sounds, routines, and a place to recover for medical dogs.

Here are a few local shelters and

rescues looking for foster care homes locally.

Lowell Humane Society info@lowellhumanesociety.org
Sweet Paws Rescue info@sweetpawsrescue.org
Bullied Breeds Rescue info@bulliedbreedsrescue.org

As for Beluga well he is walked and played with several times a day at the Lowell Humane Society by volunteers and staff but what he really deserves is a home. Being a working breed, he would love an energetic family. Could you do Kane a favor and spread the word about Beluga and Marshall needing homes. (Call the Lowell Humane Society at 978-452-7781 to meet them.)

A hard part of fostering is helping a pup out, falling in love, then letting them go to their new family. Although Kane will be so happy for Beluga and Marshall when they get adopted, he will feel sad he might not see them again. But boy, won’t those tears be worth it.

Kane asks you to adopt and don’t shop. Kane was adopted from Imminent Danger German shepherd where he was cared for by the best foster care family when he was less than three months old. Kane’s sister Ruby was very ill when brought to his house by Lowell Animal Control and is healthy now.

He and Ruby are the best of friends and are both appreciative for their current life. Please consider fostering a pup, volunteering, or donating your time. Fostering saves lives!

Take care,
Kane Peaslee
WOOF!◇

It’s Time for Real Transparency in MA

Lenny Mirra

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Good rule of thumb: any government entity that claims it should not be audited should absolutely be audited, especially if that group is famous for its lack of openness and transparency.

This is exactly what we have in Massachusetts, a state government that has exempted itself from Open Meeting and Public Record laws and has one of the worst records in the country on transparency. We’re talking about a legislature that doesn’t even let us know how its members vote in committees.

Which brings us to Question 1 which will be on the ballot in November. Voting yes will give the Auditor, Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen), the opportunity to audit the House and Senate. Both of those entities get their own budgets every year, and right now we don’t really know how and where they’re spending our tax dollars and, more importantly, how effectively those dollars are being spent.

That’s the job of our Auditor: to conduct audits, investigations, and

studies to promote accountability and transparency, improve performance, and make government work better. So while she does this for every other entity in the Commonwealth, our legislature, which is in dire need of this, has refused to give her permission to do her job.

This is a legislature that has consolidated power to just a handful of individuals, where Democrats have about 90% of all seats, and where House Speaker Mariano (D-Quincy) and Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) have pretty much purchased everyone in their party. They did this by creating a bunch of bogus “leadership” positions that come with giant raises, and to get one a legislator has to do just one thing: whatever leadership demands they do.

Voters have a right to know this, and to know how much our Senators and Representatives are getting for selling out to leadership. Just consider committee hearings, which are supposed to be opportunities for the public, and public interest groups, to speak on behalf of bills before the legislature. The Boston Globe has reported that 1 in

5 committees haven’t even conducted any hearings this session, and yet their Chairs are receiving tens of thousands in additional pay.

Moreover, if all decisions are being made by just a few people then why is our state always late in passing a budget, and why are they getting so little done? We have one of the least productive legislatures in the country, and they’re breaking records for having the fewest number of formal sessions, so again, why the exorbitant extra pay?

An even better question is what happens next session if Question 1 passes, which polls are showing will happen.

If history is any guide, Speaker Mariano will demand his minions ignore the new law, or pass another one that will effectively dismantle the mandate passed by voters. It’s happened before as the legislature ignored ballot initiatives passed by voters on things like tax cuts, campaign finance reform, and capital punishment.

That’s no way to run a democracy, especially from the party that claims to be protecting it. This is not a partisan



issue and polls show Question 1 has supporters in both parties, including Democrat voters. The only people opposed are the Democrats in the legislature, which leads to the ultimate question, will our State Senators and Representatives stand with their constituents, or with their party’s leadership?

Lenny Mirra is a former Massachusetts State Representative from Newbury and is now living in Georgetown. You can email him at lenny.mirra@gmail.com ◇



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<u>Common Sense Agenda</u>		
Opposes non-citizens voting in our elections	✓	✗ *
Opposes Driver’s licenses for illegal immigrants	✓	✗ *
Supports police and judges cooperating with ICE	✓	✗ *
Opposes lowering the voting age to 16	✓	✗ *
Opposes raising the juvenile delinquency age to 21 regardless of the heinousness of the offense	✓	✗ *
Will reject activist Judges	✓	✗
<u>Public Safety Credentials</u>		
Public Safety Expert	✓	✗
Years of public safety experience	32	0
Endorsed by Police Unions	✓	✗
Supports qualified immunity for public safety officers and first responders	✓	✗ **
Endorsed by radical members of Congress who opposed the “Violence Against Women and Children by Illegal Aliens Act”	✗	✓ *

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Time for Change: John Deaton for Senate

Kevin Dube

CHAIR, NORTH ANDOVER GOP COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Warren is seeking re-election for her 3rd term as the Senior Senator from Massachusetts.

But to look at her social media and web site you certainly wouldn't know it. The latest entry on her website under news is from August 9th of 2023, over a year ago. On the ground here in MA she's been with the voters very little, save an appearance at an event for Harris on August 26th. Instead of listing her accomplishments, as a candidate should do, her social media is filled with talk of President Trump and Vice President Harris. She even took time from what should be a busy campaign schedule to head down to Pennsylvania on September 20th to stump for a Senate candidate there. She is apparently far more concerned with Democrats holding that swing state than she is with the citizens of the Commonwealth she allegedly represents.

This is a common tactic for a Democratic Incumbent here in Massachusetts. When you have a challenger, ignore them. This is a good strategy for our Senator who has done so little for our state, because she

has a threatening candidate to her reelection in John Deaton.

John Deaton grew up in the type of poverty few of us can imagine. Politicians love to talk about how they will help the disadvantaged, but few have actually ever been there. John has. He's not only the first member of his family to graduate college, but also the first to even graduate High School. Through sheer determination John rose up above his beginnings to not only graduate from college, but to go to law school, and become a successful attorney. As if it wasn't enough to overcome, John faced the additional difficulty of being diagnosed with testicular cancer during his junior year in college and beat that as well. John is truly the embodiment of the American Dream.

Although born and raised in Detroit, John has extensive roots in Massachusetts. He lived in Roxbury while attending Boston's New England School of Law. While in law school he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was selected to represent Massachusetts over students from surrounding law schools, including Harvard University. If you remember, Harvard University is where Elizabeth Warren famously was paid \$300K

for teaching one class after falsely claiming she was Native American to get the job. Following his service in the Marines, where he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal, John has been practicing law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over 20 years.

A vote for Liz Warren is a vote for her own self-interest, and the Democratic Party establishment. Let us not forget that while running in 2018 she swore that she was not seeking higher office. However, in December of 2018, shortly after being re-elected, and before even being sworn into her 2nd term she created her Presidential campaign account and announced her candidacy on February 9th of 2019. Famously Warren ended her Presidential bid on March 5th 2020 after spectacularly coming in 3rd place in Massachusetts behind Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders.

John Deaton, on the other hand, has been tirelessly working to earn the votes of Massachusetts Citizens. Since announcing his candidacy, he has been here daily with the voters addressing our concerns. While Liz Warren makes televised appearances stating it is of the utmost importance

that Democrats keep the Senate, John is speaking to the voters about why he will support his constituency.

John Deaton is an independent candidate in the mold of Governor Baker. Senator Warren tries to elevate her case by fear mongering about national issues, such as abortion. However, John Deaton is pro-choice, he even challenged Senator Warren to a debate on reproductive issues, which she has declined. In fact, while Warren agreed to 4 debates against Scott Brown in 2012, and 3 debates in 2018, she has only agreed to 2 debates against John Deaton. She also would not agree on a debate in September, but rather the first debate will be on October 15th, well after mail in ballots have been sent out.

John Deaton will be here in North Andover at the VFW for a meet and greet on October 23rd at 7:00PM. I encourage all of you, but especially those unenrolled voters, and registered Democrats that are dissatisfied with the direction our nation and Commonwealth are going in, to attend.

It is time for a change, and John Deaton is the candidate you've been looking for! Go to Johndeatonforsenate.com to get involved! ♦

The logo for A & J Goodwin Plumbing & Heating is presented in a black and white, high-contrast style. The company name, "A & J GOODWIN", is arched over the top of the central graphic. Below this, two adjustable wrenches are crossed in an 'X' shape. Underneath the wrenches, the words "PLUMBING & HEATING" are written in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the logo, the phone number "781-363-7743" is displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background with a thin black border.

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JD Vance Offers Real ‘Opportunity’ to Forgotten Americans

Kenneth Willette
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

It is not often that someone can witness the brilliance and eloquence of a national leader who speaks directly to Working America and not sound scripted or insincere. Jack Kennedy inspired a generation with his youth and optimism about a limitless America, which included the seemingly impossible technological task of sending and returning men from the moon. Reagan gave new inspiration for a Morning in America reboot after years of economic malaise, massive inflation and military decline.

Now JD Vance has arrived on the scene after orchestrating the most balanced, informative and sympathetic debate performance in decades aimed at the forgotten working-class communities across America.

JD Vance didn’t have to look constantly down at notes, with his incredible recollection and intellect. He didn’t look perplexed and confused at times like Tim Walz, who sorely needed more confrontational interviews under his belt on the national stage. Vance didn’t lash out uncontrollably at the 3 against 1 liberalism ganging up on him, especially when faced with yet another round of erroneous fact checking, loaded questions and little accountability directed at Walz from the panel.

And Vance certainly had a better memory of events and nations, unlike Walz who confused Iran with Israel, who called school shooters his friend, who lied about no abortion restrictions in his state and who couldn’t even pinpoint his whereabouts during the Tiananmen Square crackdown on democracy in 1989. So, the Walz gaffe machine continues

regarding his war zone participation, his radicalized abortion stance and his trips to China- all of which the panelists gave him a free pass.

Vance knew the biased Legacy Media odds were stacked against him, and he savored every moment of the challenge before a receptive audience of tens of millions of people—many of whom saw him in a new light. Even the heavily Democratic leaning polling from CNN and CBS both gave Vance a slight debate victory margin.

Older Americans remember how Reagan was parodied too--- he was going to cause World War III; he was too scripted as a former actor and generally uninformed; he was way out of the mainstream in his political views. But when Reagan said to Carter and the home audience, “Are you better off now than you were four years ago,” all the fake liberal portrayals of him washed away. Reagan owned that debate stage just like Vance did.

When the Leftist New York Times and Politico both declared that Vance had a night of debate dominance, you can start to witness the twisted narrative of an unhinged and uncouth Vance collapsing before your eyes. Vance elevated the role of Vice President on a debate platform more than anyone I have studied in my years of public service.

From the early years of living in a broken home, witnessing the arrest of his drug addicted mom, serving honorably in a war zone as a Marine, and constantly driving to enhance his education and improve his station in life, Vance embodies the best values of the American Spirit.

He is not weird for attending Yale Law, which I can’t imagine anyone from the Left ever questioning Obama excelling at Harvard Law. He admitted making a sarcastic remark about childless women with cats, but the Left ignores the fact that Vance was the first candidate to bring up increasing the Trump child tax credit to \$5,000--- long before Kamala stole both Trump’s No Taxes on Tips and presented her own child tax credit plan that largely mimics the Vance pro-family agenda.

But going beyond the societal importance of encouraging American families to grow and prosper, Vance succinctly articulates the America First agenda without the repetitive and sometimes caustic delivery of Trump.

The most profound decision Trump has made during the most consequential election since Reagan in 1980, was

selecting Vance. Trump willingly is passing the torch and the future of the Republican Party to a superstar in JD Vance, who is daily confronting the liberal journalists by conducting dozens of interviews on CNN, ABC, CBS and NBC. The cowards on The View couldn’t remotely challenge Vance, and unsurprisingly they haven’t extended an invitation. Yet they allowed Whoopi and Biden to call Trump a bug that needed to be killed. Keeping it Classy in the Party of Peace and Unity.

When 95% of your major media journalists in a recent study were verified to have Democratic Party membership, you want your more insightful, intelligent and poised running mate to go deep into the opposition’s playground. The hallmark of true leadership is when you surround yourself with young leaders and surrogates like Tim Scott, Vivek Ramaswamy, Nikki Haley, Tulsi Gabbard, and Marco Rubio, who are destroying the myth of a white supremacist GOP.

At his core, Vance knows intimately the economic damage inflicted upon the Rust Belt states by the history of Bill Clinton’s NAFTA, the granting of Most Favored Nation trading status to China and yielding disputes to a World Trade Organization. Vance unabashedly embraces the power of tariffs against unfair trade practices, the power of rewarding domestic companies over ones only interested in moving jobs overseas and the power of reinvigorating the domestic energy juggernaut that is the United States oil, natural gas and nuclear industry.

Vance expertly links the deluge of millions of illegal aliens into this country to the increasing unaffordability of housing. He is a policy wonk who references the Federal Reserve. He reinforces his argument with Department of Homeland Security’s Inspector General reports, which document tens of thousands of illegal aliens who committed capital crimes such as murders in conjunction with vicious crimes like rapes, assaults and child trafficking. Over 435,000 criminal aliens are out on our streets.

There are profound reasons why 400,000 cops refuse to endorse Harris. The same applies to 350,000 firefighters. Why the Border Patrol union prefers Trump. Why the polled Teamsters favor Trump. Vance can tap into that union dissatisfaction on the Biden Harris nightmare. The momentum and energy have clearly shifted to the Republicans. ◇

The Revolution For Peace & A Free Palestine (Let Love Lead)

Louis Yarid
VALLEY PATRIOT RESIDENT COMMUNIST

Because of the fact that both sides (Palestine & Israel) cannot agree to peace, and the United States as the prime claimant of the state of Israel as their vassal, does not seem interested in giving them even a slap on the wrist for their undeniable war crimes, & would rather give them more weapons, there has to be a mediator.

Who, you might ask will this mediator be? Ironically, it may be the one piece of the puzzle that not many truly know about yet. Before the state of Israel was founded, there was another place set aside for the people who were persecuted by the Nazi Party & the Holocaust perpetrated by all Fascist parties in Europe. That place was and still is the Jewish Autonomous Oblast which is part of the Russian Federation. Putin, therefore... could be that possible mediator.

Let us keep in mind that the Russian Army has been stationed in Syria to prop up Bashar Al Assad’s nearly failed Ba’athist regime from total annihilation from the Leftist organizations that have kept Northern Syria independent for the sake of Kurdistan solidarity with the people of Syria, which Ba’athism has racially profiled against for decades. The

Russian Army has been the peacekeepers since 2012, putting their own bodies on the line to at least enforce some semblance of peace despite looking the other way when Assad’s forces perform atrocities.

They have been itching for a truly noble and worthy fight that will truly make a difference in the war in Palestine & Israel, and perhaps even world peace. Just like in Israel, the Jewish Autonomous Oblast offers easy entrance to anyone of Jewish descent as well as family members of Holocaust survivors from other ethnicities, the landmass is almost twice as big as Israel, with only about 800 Jewish families still left living there.

If Israel were to broker a deal for confederation with the Jewish Autonomous Oblast, they may secure for themselves a true independence with honestly fair consolation for the land they have already conquered. If they were serious about truly being independent rather than literally subsisting off of the military budget spending of a number of countries, they would be wise to think of the only possible allies they could reach out to, even if they don’t see them as allies simply because their sugar daddies (the United States and United Kingdom) see them as enemies.

PALESTINIANS: PAGE 23

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REPLACING NEIL PERRY

With the passing of Methuen Mayor Neil Perry, the city council is wasting no time replacing him as they voted last week to hold a special election on December 10th, though they admit they are violating the charter by doing so. Starting October 8th nomination papers are available for anyone wishing to run. The deadline to take out nomination papers is October 18th. The deadline to turn them in is October 22nd. There will be no early voting but there will be voting by mail. The winner will take office within three days as it takes about three days to certify the election.

BUT NO PRIMARY!

While Methuen is going to hold a special election for the remainder of Neil Perry's term, there will be no primary. This will be a winner-take-all election. Normally, a primary would reduce the number of candidates to two, and then whoever gets the majority of votes in a final election becomes the mayor. But, because there is no primary that means the more candidates there are, the fewer votes are needed to replace Perry. In other words, if you have 5,000 people who turn out to vote and there are nine candidates, the next mayor could win with less than 500 votes.

WHO REPLACES A COUNCILOR?

The question was asked by councilor Soto, what happens to a city councilor's seat if a councilor wins the mayor's election and has to leave the city council? Methuen City Attorney Rosetti (who's not very bright on this stuff) said that if the next candidate in the last election garnered at least 20% of the vote they would automatically take the open seat. Not surprisingly he had no answer as to what happens if the losing candidate did NOT receive at least 20% - as is the case here.

STOP DOING THIS!


It's clear that the elected officials in Methuen care very little about increasing public participation in local elections as one of the city election rules allows the deadline to turn IN nomination papers is AFTER the deadline to take out nomination papers. That means after the deadline has passed to take out nomination papers, if nobody returns them, Methuen cancels their primary or

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK


METHUEN FRIENDS AND FAMILY PLAN

Patrick McCarty, brother of former Methuen Councilor Jim McCarty got his job as the City of Methuen's "epidemeologist" (as if the city needs one) after Councilor McCarty started changing his votes at the council table to favor Neil Perry after 3 years of voting no on just about everything Perry wanted.

Patrick's qualifications? He made phone calls during COVID. Now he's been given a cushy promotion for a job he isn't really qualified for. When asked his qualifications he told the council that he was a plumber's apprentice.



WINSTON SAYS!



I tried Tom's leftovers from Eleven Kitchen and Bar and they were awesome!

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has no names on the ballot .

In Lawrence, (where they pretty much do EVERYTHING better than Methuen when it comes to elections) anyone can take out nomination papers up to the very day they are due to be returned, so if an incumbent decides last minute not to return their papers there's still time to get your name on the ballot. Methuen also needs to have primaries in every municipal election regardless of the number of candidates.

A.G. FINDS HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN VIOLATION OF OPEN MEETING LAWS

Earlier this year I filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Attorney General's office because the Haverhill School Committee held an illegal meeting where they discussed items not specifically listed on the school committee agenda. That agenda item was not an oversight as the committee members pretended after the

fact. How do I know? Because the agenda item was to throw Scott Wood off the Whittier Tech School Board in retaliation for him daring to run against Melinda Barrett for mayor. The same Melinda Barrett who violated the open meeting law as a city councilor when she illegally participated in back room conspiracy to inject the Haverhill City Council into the mayor's race by "condemning" Wood, during last year's mayor's race.

Finally, ten months later, the Attorney General's office ruled in favor of The Valley Patriot's complaint but let Barrett and her corrupt committee off the hook saying there is no evidence this was done on purpose. This, despite the fact that I sent the A.G. reams of documents proving that it was indeed intentional. The A.G. also stated that because the school committee responded to my complaint by taking a second vote that was legal, they consider the matter closed. Just imagine if the rest of our criminal justice system was run this way.

MASSACHUSETTS BALLOT QUESTIONS

YES ON QUESTION #1 - AUDIT THE LEGISLATURE

This question asks the voters to approve State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's efforts to audit the state legislature. So, it's no surprise that the corrupt elected officials on Beacon Hill have done everything in their power to stop her. This bill comes because DiZoglio was sexually harassed and assaulted when she worked on Beacon Hill and in the process of being fired, she found out (and revealed to the rest of us) that the legislature has secret slush funds to pay off sexual assault victims. Those payouts, of course, came with a non-disclosure agreement so they could continue sexually assaulting women without anyone ever finding out.

Who knows how many other types of slush funds exist on Beacon Hill or how many billions of taxpayers' dollars are literally stolen by our state reps every year? Vote YES on one and we actually might find out!

NO ON QUESTION #2 - MCAS

For decades the teachers' unions and the people who run our education system in Massachusetts have been trying to do away with the MCAS test as a requirement to graduate high school. This is mostly because "educators" don't like anything that holds them accountable for the level of knowledge kids are or more importantly are not getting in our schools. Those who support doing away with MCAS are not proposing replacing it with anything. So, think about that. We are going to do away with a graduation requirement that leaves most kids with a diploma but can't read at grade level, can't do math in their heads, don't know anything about American History, know nothing about the rights enshrined in the Constitution and cannot even tell time.

That's WITH an MCAS requirement. Just imagine how dumb these kids are gonna be five years from now without it!

NO ON QUESTION #3 - RIDE SHARE UNIONIZATION

If there's one thing this country needs less of, it's unions! Question #3 asks voters to approve unionizing ride share drivers for Uber, Lyft, etc. which, of course, would drive up the price for customers as well as force drivers to be part of a union they don't want to be in. Most of my friends who drive or ride sharing apps say they are voting NO so I am too. This is nothing more than a money grab for state government and if you don't believe me read the ten full pages of state bureaucracy this measure creates!

NO ON QUESTION #4 - LEGALIZING PSYCHEDELICS

It's bad enough that we have teachers, cops, bus drivers, airline stewardesses, firefighters, EMTs, garbage men, nurses and city hall workers walking around stoned on pot all the time. You smell it everywhere you go. It's totally inescapable! Do we really want to expand that to include psychedelics that alter someone's state of mind so much that they don't know where they are? Is this something you would want for your children? Also, making these drugs legal

NEXT PAGE



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Tim Walz Repealed MN Law Protecting Babies Born After Failed Abortions

Five babies died in Minnesota after they were born alive due to a failed induced abortion in 2021.



William Bornhoft, Patch Staff

Posted Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 11:42 am CT
Updated Wed, Sep 11, 2024 at 8:52 am CT

NOTEBOOK CONTINUED

increases the power of state government. And that’s the last thing we need in Massachusetts.

NO ON QUESTION #5 - MINIMUM WAGE FOR TIPPED WORKERS

It’s bad enough that restaurants and bars screw over their good bartenders and waiters by making them pool their tips with bad servers. But if this passes, those servers will make even less money because now they are paying more taxes on their wages (which is what this is all about) and their customers will tip them less (because we all have a finite budget to dine on). Like some of the other ballot questions this is just another money grab by the state. Ask your next server how they are voting. I did, and they all said NO!

METHUEN COUNCIL VIOLATES 1ST AMENDMENT RIGHTS!

Like many locally elected boards, the Methuen City Council has a number of unconstitutional city ordinances. So, goes the case with Methuen’s unlawful prohibition of free speech at city council meetings. The council has a policy that prohibits a member of the public from mentioning anyone by name during public participation. That’s a violation of the Constitution according to decades of Supreme Court precedent for public participation at meetings. Of course, not one member of the city council objected to this even though each of them raised their right hands and swore to protect and

defend the Constitution when they were sworn into office. You know who else had nothing to say while the Constitution was getting trampled on? The Methuen City Attorney Ken Rosetti.

As an interesting sidenote, members of the Methuen City Council violated that rule repeatedly when it came to Joe Solomon ... including Council President Joel Faretra. But when a local business owner got up at public participation last week to complain about Mayoral Chief of Staff Tina Conway and her despicable behavior - Faretra tried to silence Consoli telling him he had no right “to attack anyone by name.” He’s lucky that wasn’t me at the microphone. I would have said her name ten more times and forced Faretra to either have me arrested (so I could sue for untold millions) or finally admit their policy was unconstitutional.

It is scary that local elected officials are so ignorant of the Constitution when they are supposed to be the guardians of it at the municipal level. But what’s even more alarming is that nobody ever challenges them when someone’s rights are being violated. Where are all the civil libertarians and so called “civil rights” advocates among us? We lose our rights at the local level long before we lose them at the national level. If we can’t have public bodies who care about the Constitution while doing the government’s business, then what chance do we have of keeping our freedoms? ◇

Auditor DiZoglio’s Investigations Identify Over \$2M in Public Benefit Fraud in Q4 of FY24

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio released the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) quarter four report. The report summarizes BSI’s work and initiatives to help make government work better by investigating, fraud, abuse, and illegal acts involving public assistance benefits throughout the Commonwealth.

For quarter four, BSI investigated 1,235 cases. Of these, 176 were completed with fraud identified. Further details regarding these 176 cases may be found below.

Summary of Investigations Completed with Fraud Identified

- * Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) \$1,901,925.00
- * Medicaid \$245,858.79
- * Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) \$138,081.90
- * Department of Early Education & Care (EEC) \$19,263.57
- * Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) \$60,472.00

Grand Total \$2,365,601.26

Thinking Of Voting Democrat Here’s What You’ll be Voting For

Ron Kilgore
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

So here we are in another election season where this time around the stakes couldn’t possibly be higher. We are on the brink of, if not a third world war, at least a major conflict with wars going on in the Middle East and in the Ukraine. Not to mention that we ourselves now live in a country that is so divided along political lines that we can’t even agree to disagree anymore. We have one chance every 4 years to get this right and we do need to right this ship because the world is on fire and we have a fireman who only works from 10 am to 4 pm. And now that he (Biden) had dropped out of the race, they want us to accept the most unpopular vice-president in American history as a legitimate candidate for the highest office in the land. Kamala Harris is not fit to be the President of the United States of America. And here’s why:

Kamala Harris, as the sitting vice-president of the United States, could very easily have been doing all of the things that she says that she wants to do now, but didn’t. Why? And all of the things that she says that she wants to do now are the polar opposite of her policies as a presidential candidate in 2019. Why? What changed? Could it be the fact that polls are showing that people trust Donald Trump more on issues like the economy, the boarder and foreign policy? Is that why she’s trying to mimic his policies now?

She is a chameleon. She becomes who she needs to be for wherever she is. Skeptical? Watch two speeches that she gives before labor unions in Detroit and Philadelphia and you’ll see that not only does her demeanor change, but her accent and cadence change as well. Why? And she takes on this kind of weird southern accent below the Mason-Dixon line that is really off-putting. Just saying.

Kamala Harris, with the help of the main-stream media, denies that she was ever the “border czar.” They say that she was just supposed to find, and address the “root causes” of illegal immigration. Anybody remember what those were? Anybody? To find these root causes she talked to maybe 3 or 4 countries in Central America. OK. But we have people from over 150 countries coming here illegally.

What about the other 146 or so? Could the root causes be that she and Biden invited everybody to just come on in? Under Donald Trump only 11 people on the terror watch list were caught trying to cross our borders.

Under Biden-Harris that number jumped to 375. And those are just the ones that got caught. We have no clue how many were missed. Over 420,000 convicted criminals including 13,000 murderers and 26,000 rapists are also known to have gotten into our country as well. Also, just for clarity, on March 21, 2020, based on the fact that Biden put her in charge of the border, Congress recognized Kamala Harris as the “Border Czar.” How’s that working for everybody?

As I write this, the southeast of our country was hit by a devastating hurricane named Helene. Almost 200 people believed dead with the number

likely to rise. DHS Secretary Mayorkas says that FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, doesn’t have enough money to get through the rest of the hurricane season. Really? But we have 640,000,000 million dollars to give out to accommodate illegal migrants while American citizens get nothing but red tape and denials? There are people there who haven’t even recovered yet from past storms. We have to do better.

Kamala Harris wants to take guns from law abiding citizens. As Attorney General of California, Kamala Harris proposed a law that the state could make random incursions into the homes of registered gun owners and if they didn’t like how they were storing their weapon or ammunition there goes their gun and their right to carry. I know that guns are a touchy topic, but at the end of this paragraph you’ll see why I bring it up. But first this. Massachusetts Governor Maura Heally just signed an emergency gun law into act. It’s an “emergency” so it can be enacted immediately and so she can get around those people with their pesky petitions against it. Both laws are really just an end run around the Constitution. Ready for the irony? As District Attorney of San Francisco and Attorney General of California, Kamala Harris is a registered gun owner, as is her running mate Tim Walz. And she told Oprah that, “anyone breaks into her house is getting shot.” Having held both positions here, Maura Heally is likely a registered gun owner as well. But I cannot confirm that. I wonder what happens to their guns. And FYI Massachusetts, we are the second most expensive state to live in behind where? California.

In her career Kamala Harris has advocated for: Decriminalizing illegal immigration, legalizing drugs, including Fentanyl after having put away thousands of Californians for minor drug offences, gender reassignment surgeries for prison inmates and illegal immigrants on the taxpayer dime, taking guns from legal gun owners with a mandatory buy-back program, and for people to contribute to a fund to bail people arrested during the George Floyd Riots out of jail.

If you want to see what she will do to our beloved country, take a look at California. If a shiver went down your spine reading that last sentence, then your choice for president should be clear. If not, then we may be screwed.

Look, love or hate Donald Trump, we simply cannot afford 4 years of a Kamala Harris administration after having gone through 4 years of her and Biden. The policies are just unsustainable. We went through 4 years of Trump already and there was no jailing of journalists. No executions of political rivals. And the world was quiet. So that leads to the burning question of this election. And that is, “Are you better off now than you were 4 years ago?”

Remember what she said in her interview on CNN when she said that “her values haven’t changed.” That is actually one thing that she has said that I believe. That means if we elect her, even though she is now against most of the things that she was once for, it won’t be long before she is for those things she was once against.

Think about that. ◇



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DRACUT: FROM PAGE 5

PALESTINIANS: FROM PAGE 18

section of Dracut in 1905. Dracut has maintained its dichotomy of agricultural and industry, perhaps to its detriment. Not one characteristic becoming the true face and identity of Dracut. MBTA Communities may be a tool to finally combine them and create that vision.

The areas for the MBTA Community Districts were chosen very carefully by the town’s Zoning Bylaw Review Committee. The ZBRC has recommended the zones be created as overlay districts, so the main underlying zoning remains in place but the option of the MBTA zone is available to developers. There are two districts proposed: one aligned to Loon Hill Road and Broadway and another focused around Tennis Plaza. Both have access to public transit and are in more densely populated areas of Dracut. These are also areas that would be able to increase their potential commercial base for exponential benefit. These areas can be seen as less automotive centric with public transit and walkable commercial amenities. Tennis Plaza is also adjacent to the Dr. Daoulas Education Complex while Loon Hill is near Veterans Memorial Park both providing outdoor activities. Neither site will be burdensome to the local farming community, in contrast they will be providing a supplemental customer base.

Dracut has always been a simple community. That is not meant in a derogatory manner. It has been more “Yankee” than most towns in the area. The citizens of Dracut prefer to mind their business and not interfere in the business of their neighbors. So inherent in their DNA is this hands-off mindset is that the last adopted Master Plan prior to 2020 was in 1968. The ZBRC is looking to update bylaws last written in 1985. The state may be seen as forcing the hand of Dracut to comply with “unfunded mandates,” but I see the MBTA Communities as an unrealized opportunity. ♦

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I believe it was Chris Rock who said it best back in the early 2000s: “Since the end of the Cold War, I find NATO obsolete.” Which is true... because if NATO intends to present itself as the military wing of the United Nations, they certainly have a big problem considering the biggest nation on Earth as part of the United Nations. Russia has become a much more active Democracy than we give them credit for... Let’s say the Republican Party falls out of popularity almost totally and everyone starts getting on board with the Democratic Party all because of the meteoric rise of Centrists, & reaches a party membership of 80% of the population, would we still consider that Democracy?

That is exactly the situation that has been going on in Russia since the Soviet Union was forced to collapse. About 80% of the population of Russia still registers for the United Russia Party, which was Putin’s last political affiliation before claiming to be an Independent. If Putin wanted to, because he has the troops for it, he can send Russian military personnel to force a peace deal. Putin as President of Russia has already granted independence to Chechnya, Dagestan, Ossetia, Abkhazia (disputed with Georgia), Buryatia, Altai, Priednestrovie/Transnistria, and the Republic of Sakha (former Yakut Republic... the 13th largest country on Earth if it were recognized). He could in theory offer Autonomous independence as a Republic under the Russian Federation for BOTH Palestine AND Israel.

All they would need to do is apply via referendum proposed to their populations. However, all the political parties of both Israel and Palestine would have to agree to it and stand out of the way to let the political process of democracy lead the way. Since we heavily insist on our government’s narrative that the State of Israel is independent, we would have to admit that they are indeed our vassals and therefore to some degree are our colony almost like Puerto Rico, however I doubt that Puerto Rico would suffer from as much poverty if the United States Government gave as much money to them as they do to Israel.


The task is given to us as Americans to say enough is enough and admit the undeniable fact that we have not invested any money into Israel’s defense, but we have wasted it on .50 cal bullets that target the limbs of children, bombs that destroy entire hospitals full of innocent people, and drones that fire on anybody that dares to look out their window. These are the atrocities facing Gaza and the West Bank, and anyone who supports Israel is supporting doing that to innocent people.


That’s how the Israel Defense Forces “IDF” operates. The US Army has always at least conducted itself with respect for the Geneva Convention on an official level. The IDF does not. Let’s face the truth as well, that after 78 years of “independence,” statehood, and most importantly, a mandatory draft of all citizens of Israel, there are almost no civilians except for the children yet to be drafted into the IDF. Compare that to only about 20% of Palestinians being armed at all in the first place let alone politically motivated against Israeli occupation.

Since none of Israel’s allies want to stop Israel, it must come to terms with the only other place that has an alternate Israel and many Muslim nations as well... Russia. Either that, or Jesus himself must come back and force this to stop. There is no other way. ♦



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Property Sales, Foreclosures for SEPTEMBER 2024 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)



Northern Essex Registry of Deeds
M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Atlantic Oliver II Connector Road LLC, Stag Industrial Holdings LLC, \$14,080,000, 7 Connector Rd
Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Astrid Capital LLC, \$1,550,000, 20 RobertDr Unit 7-2
Derek & Bettyanne Donahue, Ashfaque Shaikh & Samreen Arshad, \$1,415,000, 3 Coderre Wy
Joseph Ferguson Tr & Deborah Orlander Tr & Orlander Ferguson Trust, Xiaoxing Jiang & Chaohui & Liu , \$1,260,000, 79 Reservation Rd
Arun Swaminathan/Arun Iyer & Akila Viswanathan/Akila Iyer, Kevin & Jennifer Shepard, \$1,250,000, 19 Pauline Dr
Aaron H & C Nicole Moore, Gabrielle & Coleman Pope, \$1,200,000, 10 Joseph St
Michael W Motsinger & Julie M Fitzgerald, Ian & Jenni Lonsdale, \$1,107,000, 124 Summer St
Davinder S & Kusum N Gill, Xuan Zhang & Ling Wu, \$1,040,000, 20 Charlotte Dr
Robert Michael Cohen & Leah Danielle Cohen , Mafruha Haque Gruber & David Benjamin Gruber, \$990,000, 29 Taylor Cove Dr Unit 23
Richard S Iannessa Tr & Jaime M Iannessa Tr & Iannessa Family Revocable Trust, Stephen J & Pamela J McLaughlin, \$976,000, 25 Farrwood Dr
Carol Henry Revocable Trust & Carol Henry Tr, Stacey B Rollins & Kyle Tagen, \$850,000, 7 Sherry Dr
Seungwhan Pee & Han A Kim, Yingxia & Bin Wang, \$812,500, 2 Powder Mill Sq Unit 5B
Patrick J & Theresa R Pecorelli, Ying Ping Cai, \$785,000, 463 South Main St
James Pacy Jr Est/James Pacy Est & Kurt Pacy, Dynamis Development LLC, \$759,500, 15 Upland Rd
Gayle C Connolly Tr & Serenity Realty Trust II, Kenneth & Mary-Ann Hughes, \$741,000, 32 Michael Way Unit 21
Judith W Nowinski, William S Woodward, \$740,000, 14 Stratford Rd
Lakshmi Boppana , Deepa Nair, \$700,500, 18 Dale St Unit 6D
Joanne M Tremblay Tr & 41 Pine Street Trust, Anthony Grise, \$675,000, 41 Pine St
Mikaela M Ferguson, Inger Parent, \$664,000, 8 Dufton Rd
Maria L & Robert E McWhinnie Jr, Yawen Hao, \$659,000, 22 Chester St
Eric & Meghan C Sachetta, Sander Properties Management LLC, \$550,000, 322 River Rd
Xuejin & Xuezhen Wang, Heidi Barry, \$544,000, 5 Porter Rd Unit 201
Arora Elm Square LLC, Initech Re LLC, \$528,000, 1 Elm Sq Unit 1F
Croteau Living Trust & David M & Sarah A Croteau Trs, Danielle Ravens, \$518,000, 1 Punchard Ave Unit 3
Jeanne M Costanzo/Jeanne M Vink, Hilary K & Samantha Albuquerque, \$285,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 320
Jason J Li & Grace J Chow, Karla Llorens & Mateus Campos, \$255,000, 90A Washington Park Dr Unit 2
Derek C DeAngelis Tr & Atkinson Realty Nominee Trust, Ronald J Vallante Tr & Elisie A Vallante Tr & Vallante Family Revocable Trust, \$208,000, 100 Washington Park Dr Unit 8

LAWRENCE

Atlantic Oliver II 91 Glenn Street LLC, Stag Industrial Holdings LLC, \$21,110,000, 91 Glenn St
Clyde M & Joan Hall, DLC Phase 2 LLC, \$3,500,000, 10 Grafton St
DLC Phase Two LLC, Israel Reyes Tr & Patricia Sanchez-Reyes Tr & Hancock Realty Trust, \$1,700,000, 273-279 Andover St
JC & BO LLC, JPM Plaza LLC, \$1,325,000, 473 Haverhill St
Jacob Dorisca & Marie Francesca Dorisca Est/Marie F Dorisca Est, Cesar Alexander Checo, \$900,000, 51-53, 55-59 Centre St
Luis G Mendez & Margaret A Hernandez, Silvia G Maza Huisha & Cristian P Maza Huisha, \$890,000, 34 Salem St
William L & Ann R Sheehy, Marco A Quillay Sanaitan & Marcia A Bano Charco, \$850,000, 14 Sunset Ave
Isaac E & Rosa Lina Rodriguez, Maciel Sandoval, \$822,000, 5 Jordan Ave
Edward F Gallagher, William & Fabienne Polot Bury, \$775,000, 48-50 Cambridge St
Helen K Cavanaugh, Melissa Masiel Placido-Aponte & Diego A Guerrero, \$730,000, 607 Howard St
U S Home Investment LLC, Hendris Cabrera Munoz & Ybania Munoz Disla & Herlin DeJesus Cabrera Munoz, \$715,000, 211-213 East Haverhill St
Jose E Reyes Nunez & Maria Sanchez, Yoanny Reyes, \$690,000, 214-216 Abbott St
Brian & Evette Colstad, Bradley Lewis & Kevin Bowe, \$665,000, 50 Durso Ave
Newbrook LLC, Dina Morena Sanchez Herrera & Milton E Siguenza Bautista , \$640,000, 121-123 Newton St
Erik J Champy, Weethzer Surin & Naline Fanfan-Surin, \$600,000, 21 Montrose Ave
U S Bank N A Tr & Truman 2016 SC6 Title Trust, Gagan Singh, \$575,000, 67 Milton St
Esther Bayadaris Mejia Martinez & Allan F Rovelo Zambrano, Orfindey Giraldo & Sergio Carmona Lopez, \$575,000, 45 A Rollins St
Kenneth E Daher, Cesar Urena Pena & Yenny Vargas, \$560,000, 2 Sanborn St
Claire J Andrade Tr & Andrade Jefferson Street Realty Trust, Mildred Rosario & Jose M Alonzo, \$550,000, 31 Jefferson St
Lena Bruzzese, Carlos D Matos, \$545,000, 90 Knox St
Michael J Saindon, Mercedes Pilar Morocho & Diego Heriberto Sinche, \$530,000, 116 Dracut St
Scudder Bay Capital LLC, Andres Carrera & Rosarito Corniell, \$515,000, 118 Byron Ave
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co, Deyanira Mejia & Penelope Valdez Mejia, \$485,000, 104 Exeter St
Maria Hillner, JNR Realty LLC, \$480,000, 5 Buswell St
Michelle L Mastrullo, Francisca Minaya De Estevez & Juan A Estevez, \$455,000, 9 Salem St
Orlando Jimenez, Magalis Rosa Perez & Enrique Gonzalez, \$455,000, 39E Haverhill St
Joann Brien, JNR Realty LLC, \$450,000, 101 South Bowdoin
Edgar M Marroquin & Vivian L

Figueroa, Jhordan Baez & Juan Baez, \$450,000, 157 Saratoga St
Casdi Realty LLC, Santana Silverio Beltre & Santana Clever Silverio Puello, \$450,000, 184 Park St
Jeanne T Molloy Tr & Alan A Potvin Tr & Iban Properties Trust, Alan W Kazanjian Tr & Lans Realty Trust, \$385,000, 11 Dracut St
Kimball 12 Pine LLC, Emmanuel Frias, \$375,000, 69 A Inman St
Rosemary Jaquez, Wendy Paez Maldonado & Angela P Cristina Valdez, \$365,000, 144 Exchange St
Marcia A Ward Est/Marcia Ann Ward Est & Frank R Ward, Castlemar Properties LLC, \$300,000, 63 Allston St
JJM Trust, Sheril Bynoe, \$291,000, 312 Water St Unit 32
Julie E Johnson & Gilbert J Dube, Jonathan Castillo Ortiz, \$285,000, 107 Amherst St Unit 107
V Anthony Ansaldi & Anthony Ansaldi Tr & Cameron Bishop/Janton Trust, Alfredo Salvador Aquino & Elaine Aquino & Juanna Paulino Diaz, \$260,000, 24-26 Inman St Unit 22
V Anthony Ansaldi Tr/Anthony Ansaldi Tr & Cameron-Bishop/Janton Trust, Elisa M Rana & Tahmina Hoque, \$260,000, 24-26 Inman St Unit 33
Callie Rier-Ansaldi Tr & Succession24 Trust, Patricio Cepeda, \$216,000, 24-26 Inman St Unit 26
Spanish Evangelical Church Inc/Lawrence Evangelica Church Inc, Jeovanny Rodriguez, \$30,000, 28, 30 Gale St

METHUEN

Grace Morgan LLC, House of Grace LLC, \$2,600,000, 489 Prospect St
M Dos Corp Tr & 44 Oakland Avenue Realty Trust, Liyi Dai & Helen Yun Wang, \$1,249,000, 44-44a Oakland Ave
Saifur & Sayeeda Rahman, Jonathan C & Joanna C Yeh, \$950,000, 24 Pine Tree Dr
Hubert & Michele Johnson, John P Mancuso Tr & John P Mancuso Trust, \$920,000, 63 Pine Tree Drive Unit 78
Dulce Espejo & Augusto C Mejia, Raisa M Brito, \$870,070, 12-14 Wayside Ave
Troy & Jessica Morrell, Glen Julian & Lisa Anne Prezzano, \$860,000, 12 Phoebe St Unit 139
Celena M Turmel, Genry A Dilone, \$850,000, 29 High St
Peter M & Kathleen M Alagna/Kathleen M Scomis, Jane L Sciola Tr & Anthony J Sciola Jr Tr & J & A Sciola Realty Trust, \$849,900, 43 Sherwood Dr Unit 168
Advenced Operations Services LLC & B & A Mendez Properties LLC, Audilio R Lopez Maldonado & Azucena R Lopez Rodriguez & David Lopez & Erik E Cardona Lopez, \$830,000, 15 Gleason St
Kevin D Pelletier, Jolmi Minaya, \$800,000, 76-78 Lowell St
Danielle Donohue, Elia Sanchez, \$780,000, 10 Quincy St
Mark Bouchard Tr & Eleanor Bouchard Tr & Bouchard Strathmore Realty Trust, Yanlroidis Cleto Delgado & Mario Jose Cleto Carmona, \$740,000, 9-11 Strathmore Rd
Keith E & Emily Ivy, Jennifer Margaret Munley & David Michael Munley & Stephen David Munley & Hannah Cleste Munley, \$706,000, 142 Tyler St
Lim Kok Boon & Ng Mee Yong/Ng Mee Yoong, Rita M & John Anderson III, \$700,000, 54 Herrick Dr Unit 78
Carla M Moriarty Tr & James F Moriarty Tr & Moriarty Family Revocable Trust, James Joseph Moriarty, \$700,000, 3 Chausse

Dr
Michelle V & Stephen M Torosian Jr , Allen Yuenfei Tan & Tuyet Thiyen Tran, \$690,000, 27 Allen St
Megan & Michael Harrison, Kevin Var & Christa Som, \$685,000, 1-3 Bolduc St
Benony St Victor & Clovencia H St Victor & Marie C Cuvilly, Noel Badia & Mari Leisi Vargas-Acevedo, \$650,100, 36 Palermo St
Fernando Iannuccilli Jr Tr & Betty Ann Iannuccilli Tr & Iannuccilli Family Irrevocable Realty Trust, Silvino M Resendes Tr & Sergio M Resendes Tr & Resendes Irrevocable Trust, \$649,900, 18 Derry Rd
Richard William Pye Est & Abigail Larmie-DeSouza, Tomas Jimenez & Griselda Antonia Rodriguez, \$647,000, 11 Timber Ln
Glenn J & Lisa A Prezzano, Alice & Brad J Richard, \$640,000, 4 Timber Ln
Michael J Dussault & Lawrence P Dussault & Philip C Dussault & Karen L Dussault & Kenneth B Dussault & Christine M Rapazzo, Luisa Rodriguez De Ramos & Endry Duarte Rodriguez, \$635,000, 9 Fulkerson Ave
Jowan O & David A Mosher IV , Roseli Rodriguez, \$620,000, 2 Hickory Ln
Melissa J Shaheen/Melissa Shaheen-Bourque & Barbara A Shaheen Est, Yosmaira Deleon, \$610,000, 34 Quincy St
Matthew & Kara Quealy/Kara Sicard, Dante & Thalia Perella, \$600,000, 114 Pleasant St
C-Improvements LLC, Juan A Rosario Jr & Zoa I Rosario, \$590,000, 138 Edgewood Ave Unit 138
Kenneth V Pierog, Esenmon G & Atetelegwih Nkemngong, \$590,000, 117 East St
Gerald F Makin & Scott M Terrio, Juan Carlos Mendoza & Gregory Simmons, \$585,000, 130 Pleasant View St
Evergrain Orchard LLCC, Rosa E Corcino-Saunders & Leyla Martinez, \$575,000, 41 Brookdale Ave
Melinda & Aaron Vandekoppel, Chi & Hoang Luu, \$575,000, 16 Reservoir St
Timothy Joseph Coco & Meagan Elizabeth Coco, Yves Agwo Awum & Arrine Joykam Chomga, \$575,000, 142 Elm St
Sean M & Caroline M Allison, Angela M Kalivas, \$560,000, 30 Ponderosa Ave
Denning Winning/Dennis Winning & Kevin Winning & Maureen Marshall, John Malcolm & Kelly Stevens, \$560,000, 2 Westwood St
Patrick Wasylak, Elie Zaklit & Grace Kassab, \$550,000, 50 Capital St
Naphtholi & Laura Satchell, Matthew & Diane Lloyd, \$542,000, 32 Mystic St
Richard A & Irene M Lombardi, Felipe A Betances Gonzalez, \$540,000, 1 Capitol St
Samuel Taveras, Jose Luis Acevedo & Odalis Acevedo, \$539,900, 40 Strathmore Rd
Stephen C Campagnone & Joyce C Campagnone, Asiel Montejo Castro, \$530,000, 2 Currier Ave
Susan E Campolini, Merari Carrasquillo, \$530,000, 23 Milk Ave
Michele Furnari/Michelle Furnari, Adlai Kelvin Rosario & Aury Mejia, \$526,000, 199 East St
Debra A Santos, Helbert Dacosta Drumond, \$515,000, 798 Lowell St
Elizabeth M Zocchi Tr & Catherine B Saba Tr & Barbara Burns Revocable Trust, Yoly Meran Depena, \$490,000, 248 Oakland Ave
George F Murphy & Geraldine Victoria Houlihan Est, Lisa R Hanley, \$475,000, 60 Christopher Dr Unit 82
Jason P & Stacey L Therrien/Stacey L Forte, Francis Lannon III, \$468,000, 9

NEXT PAGE

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

Morton dealt a 28-point hand. The following day, they sunk two freighters and a third the next day. A tradition of playing cribbage onboard summaries was born within the ‘Silent Service.’

According to Naval historian Gary E. Weir, “In all, U.S. submarines destroyed 1,314 enemy warships in the Pacific, representing 55% of all Axis power warships lost and a total of 5.3 million tons of shipping.” American success came at a cost, though. In World War II, 52 US submarines were lost, with a total of 3,506 officers and enlisted men killed. The US Navy Submarine Service had the highest casualty percentage of any American forces in the War, about twenty percent of US Submarine Sailors did not survive World War II.

The wardroom of the oldest fast attack submarine in the United States Pacific fleet (currently USS Key West (SSN-722), as of 25 July 2023) carries O’Kane’s personal cribbage board, and upon decommissioning the board is transferred to the next oldest boat. Captain O’Kane was promoted to Admiral after his retirement from the US Navy and died in 1994. He and his wife are buried together at Arlington National Cemetery.

Arthur Murray Preston graduated from Phillips Academy in 1931, attended Yale University, and the University of Virginia School of Law. He was working as a practicing attorney when he joined the US Navy in September 1940. He was stationed at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, and participated in the island’s recovery operations.

In 1943, he was serving as a PT boat instructor in Newport, Rhode Island, and was friends with future US President LTJG John F. Kennedy, USN-R. Sent to the Pacific theater, serving as a Lieutenant with Torpedo Boat Squadron 33. Preston commanded two PT boats, receiving the Medal of Honor for his crew’s efforts in the successful rescue of a downed Navy pilot in Wasile Bay, Halmahera Island in Indonesia, despite intense fire from Japanese forces. He was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant Commander for this action. Arthur Preston reached the rank of Commander before leaving the Navy. Returning to civilian life, he worked as a banker and lawyer. Commander Preston died at fifty-four and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Thomas Jerome Hudner Jr. was a United States Navy officer and naval aviator. He rose to the rank of captain and received the Medal of Honor for his actions in trying to save the life of his wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown,

during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War. He was one of ten classmates at Andover accepted into the US Naval Academy in 1943. Captain Hudner graduated from Annapolis in 1946, too late to serve in World War II. US Naval Submariner and future US President James Earl Carter was a classmate.

The Hollywood film “Devotion,” released in 2022, is an American biographical war film based on the 2015 book, “Devotion an Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship, and Sacrifice” by Adam Makos. The real life events that inspired both the book and film, center around the US Military Service of two Navy pilots, flying missions off the Naval carrier, the USS Leyte (CV-32). Serving during the early stages of the Korean War, Naval Aviators Tom Hudner and Jesse Brown, were tasked with supporting US and United Nations Ground Forces against the North Koreans and the Chinese. The bond between the two pilots, and their devotion to duty and each other, make the book and film timeless.

Retiring from the US Navy as a Captain, Thomas Hudner was the only Naval aviator to be awarded the Medal of Honor in the Korean War.

Below is his official citation awarding him the Medal of Honor.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a pilot in Fighter Squadron 32, while attempting to rescue a squadron mate whose plane struck by antiaircraft fire and trailing smoke, was forced down behind enemy lines. Quickly maneuvering to circle the downed pilot and protect him from enemy troops infesting the area, Lt. (J. G.) Hudner risked his life to save the injured flier who was trapped alive in the burning wreckage. Fully aware of the extreme danger in landing on the rough mountainous terrain and the scant hope of escape or survival in subzero temperature, he put his plane down skillfully in a deliberate wheels-up landing in the presence of enemy troops. With his bare hands, he packed the fuselage with snow to keep the flames away from the pilot and struggled to pull him free. Unsuccessful in this, he returned to his crashed aircraft and radioed other airborne planes, requesting that a helicopter be dispatched with an ax and fire extinguisher. He then remained on the spot despite the continuing danger from enemy action and, with the assistance of the rescue pilot, renewed a desperate but unavailing battle against time, cold, and flames. Lt. (J. G.) Hudner’s exceptionally valiant action and selfless



Commander Arthur Murray
Preston USN

Captain Richard O’Kane USN

devotion to a shipmate sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

The Secretary of the Navy announced that an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer would be named USS Thomas Hudner (DDG-116). The ship was christened on April 1, 2017, with retired Captain Hudner in attendance. He served as Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Affairs and died in 2017 at the age of ninety-three. He, like the other two Medal of Honor Recipients from Phillips Andover, is buried at Arlington National.

This Valley Patriot reporter had the privilege of meeting Captain Thomas Hudner on several occasions before he passed. This article is about three heroes, a pilot, a submariner, and a PT Boat Sailor. They were all alumni of Phillips Academy, known as “Andover” to the students and graduates, all lived among us, and all were “Heroes in Our Midst.”

The Merrimack Valley American Legion Posts ask all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up

for an Honor Flight to the National Memorials in Washington DC! The Valley Patriot staff ask Veterans of all eras, to go to the American Legion’s Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion. The American Legion’s mission is working with our Congress, our Nation’s Veterans, and our community, preserving our Veteran’s Benefits for future generations and serving all Veterans and their families.



John Cuddy served in the US Navy’s Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor’s in

history and a master’s in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 28 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ♦



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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

“Bad Monkey”

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Andrew Yancy, a happy go lucky cop in the Florida Keys gets pulled into a mystery when a fisherman discovers a severed human arm. This particular human arm had the middle finger extended. Yancy digs a little deeper into the case, and he encounters a wide array of local oddballs, frequently dodges bullets too, all while trying to find out how exactly that arm ended up in the water. That’s how the story begins on ‘Bad Monkey,’ my recommendation for this month.

The series, created by Ted Lasso co-creator Bill Lawrence adapted from Carl Hiaasen’s 2013 novel, stars Vince Vaughn as Yancy. As we meet him, Yancy is a former Miami cop who’s been reassigned to the Florida Keys after ratting out a dirty cop. But now he’s been suspended from his job in the Keys as a consequence of bad choices he made in his relationship with married woman Bonnie (Michelle Monaghan).

Yancy’s relaxing at home when his old partner Rogelio (John Ortiz) stops by and tells him that a tourist out on a fishing charter has caught the aforementioned severed arm. In order to avoid bad press, Yancy is tasked with taking possession of the arm and hiding it before the news leaks.

Throughout the story, we also meet Neville Stafford (Ronald Peet), a Bahamian fisherman whose childhood home has been destroyed and replaced with a new development by a rich businessman named Christopher (Rob Delaney) and his younger and incredibly annoying significant other, Eve (Meredith Hagner). Neville is looking for revenge and strikes an unholy deal with the Dragon Queen, a spiritual shaman played by Jodie Turner-Smith. Before too

long, bodies begin piling up, and Yancy begins to realize that there’s much more to this severed arm than meets the eye. Speaking of bodies piling up, we also meet Rosa (Natalie Martinez), a Miami medical examiner who escapes the grim grind of her job by helping Yancy investigate the origins of the severed limb.

The story is recounted in voiceover by Captain Fitzpatrick (Tom Nowicki), a local fishing guide, whose folksy narrations sets the mood and is key to the show’s comic spirit.

‘Bad Monkey’s’ various plot threads don’t always tie together neatly, but they’re all still intriguing in their own way. And Vaughn’s winning lead performance holds the whole thing together. He and Martinez make a terrific pair and show wonderful chemistry together.

The supporting cast all do a great job, but make no mistake, this is Vaughn’s show. The fast-talking, joke-spewing personality that he brings to every part he plays doesn’t always work, but it’s perfect for ‘Bad Monkey.’

The series is the third collaboration between Apple TV+ and prolific TV producer and writer Bill Lawrence, and just like Ted Lasso and Shrinking, it’s incredibly fun and totally watchable. And while the show hasn’t yet been renewed for a second season, it’s pretty much a sure bet.

‘Bad Monkey’ is available to stream on AppleTV+.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ♦

Living in an Upside-Down Kingdom!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

God Bless you all and greetings, welcome to October 2024! The reason for the Title being what it is, as followers of Jesus Christ we are living in an upside-down Kingdom, which is the exact opposite of how the rest of the world is operating! Today, selfishness reigns over selflessness, right is wrong and wrong is right and many think it is right side up! Thank God we as followers of Jesus Christ are not of this world, this world is not our home!

Today, there is very little regard for the other, it is all about self, all about me and what we want, and what are we willing to do to get it! We place no value on the other, it is all about me and my achievements, what can I get with the least amount of effort or sacrifice! When we see success in others, we crave it, but without putting in all the time and effort it takes to acquire it! Make no mistake, this selfish attitude was around when Jesus was physically here on earth. When Jesus sent out the twelve apostles, He told them in Matthew 10:7-8, “Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!” NLT. This kind of ministering eventually put Him on the Cross.

The religious leaders of His day did not understand or want to understand His way of doing ministry. Yes, he was a King, but a different kind of King. He was and still is a Servant King. He came so that everyone could have LIFE and have it more than abundantly! To make this happen, the innocent one had to die for the guilty as it says in Romans 5:8, “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” NLT.

Then, King Jesus said in Mark 10:45, “For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.” NLT. Today, you very rarely hear that Jesus wants to serve you! Almost immediately every young Christian is told they must serve Jesus! This eventually takes place in the journey of a Follower, but truly only after one realizes who Jesus is and what He accomplished on the Cross and then the proper response is to completely surrender and serve him and serve others out of Love and Gratitude!

This thinking of serving others is

not new, Jesus not only was instructed to do it, but He also lived it! I am sure Jesus must have read this in Deuteronomy 10:17-19, “The LORD your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and takes no bribes. 18 He gives justice to orphans and widows. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. 19 You, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.” NLT. Wow, imagine that, Love for Foreigners! Then Jesus goes deeper with this paradigm shift in Matthew 5:43-45, “You have heard that the law of Moses says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.” NLT. Then He goes even deeper, in John 15:12-14, “I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you.13 And here is how to measure it, the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends.” NLT. How did Jesus love us??? Ephesians 5:2, tells us, “Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased because that sacrifice was like sweet perfume to him.” NLT.”

Then in Galatians 6:2, The Apostle Paul writes, “Share each other’s troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” NLT. Next, the Apostle John writes in 1 John 3:11, “This is the message we have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.” NLT.

With all this having been said, you should be getting a better understanding of why I said that the “Kingdom of God” which dwells inside us is an Upside-Down Kingdom. King Jesus is serving us in a Bottom - Up Kingdom rather than a top - down Kingdom. We see the top-down style of leadership in our politics, especially in Washington, DC. They are there to serve themselves.

But, we the followers of Jesus Christ serve Him by serving others, being Other Focused, putting others before ourselves! It is an Upside-Down Kingdom and we are the Extension, Reflection and Extension of Jesus Christ to this world! Amen!!!

Much Love to all,
Peter Larocque
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The background of the advertisement is a collage of three images. The top left shows an outdoor balcony with a white picket fence, overlooking a river and a bridge under a clear blue sky. The top right shows the interior of a restaurant with round tables set with white cloths, glassware, and floral centerpieces, with large windows in the background. The bottom half of the image shows a large, diverse crowd of people at a live event, many of whom are smiling and looking upwards.

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